

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is also an example of how corporations controlling the large majority of broadcasting stations are using a public trust to advance their private interests. This is just not fair, nor good for American democracy.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. When Sinclair's vice-president sets himself up as a spokesperson for his corporation's political and economic interests, and forces stations to broadcast his views as "editorial" content without offering opposing views a chance to have comparable time on the air, the process is biased in favor of those with power and access at everyone else's expense.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I strongly urge the FCC to engage in a more thorough review and withdraw licenses from entities like Sinclair when they abuse the public trust for their private gain. Thank you.